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ANTHROPOLOGICAL NOTES

OBITUARY—PROFESSOR H. P. STEENSBY

ANTHROPOLOGISTS on this continent will learn with regret of the death, on October 12, 1920, of Professor H. P. Steensby, one of Denmark's foremost geographers and students of Eskimo culture. Like so many of his fellow-countrymen Professor Steensby was early interested in Greenland, and gained his Ph.D. degree at the University of Copenhagen with a treatise "On the Origin of Eskimo Culture." For a time he subordinated ethnology to geography, and in 1908 travelled in Algeria and Tunisia; but a visit to West Greenland in 1909 revived his interest, and from the year 1911, when he became Professor of Geography in the University of Copenhagen, he devoted all his energies to the elucidation of the geographical, historical, and ethnological problems of that country. He was a notable contributor to the *Middelelser om Grønland*, publishing several treatises that have gained wide-spread attention. His best known work is his "Anthropological Study of the Origin of Eskimo Culture," in volume 53 of that journal, where he tried to prove, by an analysis of the geographical conditions surrounding each branch of the Eskimo race and of the main culture-elements, that the original home of what is distinctively Eskimo must be placed in the region of Coronation Gulf. This was the cradle of the Eskimo race, he believed, but when, through the exhaustion of the musk-oxen, apparently, it was compelled to spread out, east and west and north and south, in search of new food areas, the culture of the different bands became more and more diverse, partly through the influence of their new surroundings, partly through contact with neighboring peoples. After this work was published Professor Steensby took up the problem of the Norse discovery of America, and thought to locate on the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence the site of the original Vinland. He published a treatise on this topic in 1917, but in order to familiarize himself more with the geography of the region, he came over to Canada last summer. It was on his voyage back to Denmark that he suddenly fell ill and died.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION IN FRANCE FOR PREHISTORIC STUDIES

AMONG the Proceedings of the American Anthropological Association at its last meeting, printed in this number of the *Anthropologist*, will be

found the Report of the Chairman of the Joint Committee of the American Anthropological Association and the Archaeological Institute of America upon the project for the establishment of an American Foundation in France for Prehistoric Studies. This report, which not only assured the two societies of the desirability and feasibility of the plan but informed them that the budget for the first year had been guaranteed, was accepted, and a Governing Board of six was appointed.

On February 3, 1921, a meeting of the Governing Board was held at the Hotel Plaza, New York, and Prof. George Grant MacCurdy was elected first Director of the Foundation. Dr. Charles Peabody is Chairman of the Board and for the present will also serve as Treasurer of the Foundation.

The year's work will open at La Quina (Charente) on July 1st. After a stay of some three months at La Quina, there will be excursions in the Dordogne, in the French Pyrenees, and to the Grimaldi caves near Mentone. The winter term will be in Paris, and the work of the spring term will include excursions to the important Chellean and Acheulian stations of the Somme valley, to Neolithic sites of the Marne or some other suitable locality, and to Brittany for the study of megalithic monuments.

Students may enroll for an entire year or for any part thereof. Those who contemplate entering, either for the year or for the first term, should communicate immediately with the Director, at Yale University Museum, New Haven, Conn., or with Dr. Charles Peabody, Peabody Museum, Cambridge, Mass.

One Foundation scholarship of the value of 2,000 francs is available for the first year. The special qualifications of the applicant, together with references, should accompany each application. The Foundation is open to both male and female students.

The address of the Director after June 15th will be "care of Guaranty Trust Company, Paris."

THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. J. WALTER FEWKES, Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology, which occurred on Nov. 14, 1920, was celebrated at a luncheon in the Smithsonian building, Washington, D. C., attended by about forty of his friends and associates. On this occasion he was presented with a specially bound volume of letters of congratulation contributed by his acquaintances in all parts of the country. Dr. Fewkes has recently been elected an Honorary Member of the Société des Américanistes de Paris.

DR. FRANZ BOAS, Professor of Anthropology in Columbia University, has been elected an Honorary Member of the Société des Américanistes de Paris and of the Folklore Society of London. He has also been elected a Corresponding Member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences and has received the gold medal of the Anthropological Society of Berlin.

MR. PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS was appointed in May of last year to the directorship of the Museo Nacional de Arquelogía in Lima, Peru, assuming office in November.

EARLY in November Dr. J. W. Fewkes accompanied Mr. Stephen T. Mather, Director of the National Park Service, and several gentlemen connected with the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, on a trip of inspection to the Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado.

THE degree of Doctor, *honoris causa*, has been conferred upon Dr. Aleš Hrdlička, Curator of Physical Anthropology in the U. S. National Museum, by Prague University.

ON Nov. 8, Dr. Arístides Mestro was made Honorary Professor of Anthropology in the Museo Anthropologico Montané, University of Habana.

DR. LUIS MARIA TORRES, Head Professor of the Archaeological and Ethnographical Departments and Professor of American Prehistory in the National University of Argentina, has been appointed Director of the La Plata Museum.

PROF. CARL TOLDT, President of the Anthropological Society of Vienna, died on November 13 last. A memorial meeting in his honor was held at the University of Vienna on December 13.

MR. J. A. JEANÇON, who had been filling an appointment as Special Archaeologist in the Bureau of American Ethnology, has accepted the position of Director and Curator of Archaeology in The State Historical and Natural History Society of Colorado.

MR. SYLVANUS G. MORLEY of the Carnegie Institution, and Mr. William E. Gates are engaged in researches among the Mayan peoples of Guatemala.